GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2872
ANSWERED ON:30.03.2012
JUVENILE MOTHERS
Gutha Shri Sukender Reddy

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 22 per cent women in India give birth to a child before they turn 18 years as per a recent report released by United Nations International Children Fund (UNICEF);

(b) if so, the details and the facts thereof; and

(c) the remedial action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY)

(a): Yes. As per the study conducted by UNICEF, "The State of World's Children, 2012, 22% women in India give birth to a child before they turn 18 yrs.

(b)&(c): Age of child bearing is linked with age at marriage. Early marriage is attributable to a variety of socio economic factors such as poverty, illiteracy, low awareness, lack of women education and empowerment etc.

Different schemes are being implemented for addressing the various issues faced by women by various Ministries which include the following:-

Ministry of Human Resource Development..

1. Right to Education Act.

2. Sarva Siksha Abhiyan

3. Adolescent Education Programme

Ministry of Women &Child Development

4. SABLA

5. Kishori Shakti Yojana

6. National Programme for Adolescent Girls

7. Empowering women through the National Credit Fund or the Rashtriya Mahila Kosh through Self Help Groups.

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has launched the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) as its flagship programme. Adolescent Reproductive Sexual Health (ARSH) has been identified as a key strategy under the Reproductive Child Health Phase-II Programme and the National Rural Health Mission.

The service delivery package for the Adolescents under the Programme includes Promotive, Preventive, Curative and Referral services.

ARSH Clinics: Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual health Clinics are being set up as Stand Alone Clinics and those Integrated with Integrated counseling and testing centers (ICTC) at the health facilities in the States. These clinics provide comprehensive services to the Adolescents.

Outreach Services: Periodic health checkups and community camps, Periodic health education activities and Co-curricular activities.

Recognizing the importance of influencing the health seeking behavior of the adolescents, these interventions help in delaying age at marriage, reducing incidence of teenage pregnancy, meeting the unmet contraceptive needs, reducing maternal deaths, incidence of STIs and reducing the proportion of HIV +ve cases.